

## 18<sup>th</sup> National Condom Day commemorated in Nepal

*Saath-Saath Project organizes events across project districts promoting the message of dual protection provided by condoms.*

The National Center for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC), Nepal government's apex body regulating the national HIV response in the country, organized a series of programs nationwide on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 to convey the message of *Universal Access to Condom for Dual Protection* to mark the 18<sup>th</sup> National Condom Day. Programs organized on this day lay emphasis on the dual role of condom as both a preventive tool from HIV and STIs and to avoid unwanted pregnancy. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Saath-Saath Project (SSP), utilizing the synergy of its local NGO partners, organized a series of events across its project districts to commemorate the day in coordination with other stakeholders including government agencies.



SSP was part of the national planning committee responsible in developing publicity materials and organizing a national event in the capital city of Kathmandu. Additionally, SSP NGO partners organized multiple programs in coordination with local government agencies and other stakeholders in respective project districts. Some key activities conducted included distribution of condoms and prevention messages, information stalls, condom awareness

rallies, street dramas, cultural programs, blood donation program, documentary shows and advocacy for condom promotion via local media. SSP NGO partners also organized quiz contests; debates; and other varied competitions to actively involve the public in the National Condom Day commemoration.

Nepal commemorates National Condom Day every year on the first Saturday after the *Dashain* festival. The day is marked every year in Nepal to increase awareness about the benefits of condoms and increase access and usage of condoms in the country.

### Condom Day pictures



SSP staff providing condoms and prevention messages to local traffic policemen.



Locals enjoying songs related to dual nature of condoms.



Free condoms and prevention message dissemination booth.



Condom awareness rally



Blood donation program



Local youth at a SSP information dissemination booth.



Street drama promoting condom use



SSP staff demonstrating the proper way of using a female condom.